

4-Ton, 60-Foot Robot Bomb, Nazis' Latest Weapon

Analysis of
the News by
Mackenzie

Editorial Comment
Written today and
Moved by Telegraph

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE
(Substituting For
DeWitt MacKenzie)

Hitter's V-3, as described from
France, is just another rocket, and
the only new things about it are its
size and the substitution of al-
cohol for gasoline fuel, and even the
latter is not altogether new.

Sixty feet long, five feet in dia-
meter is the description. Divided
by a three, it sounds like the mete-
orological rocket which Dr. Robert
Goddard was firing in New Mexico
years before 1939. His was long
cylindrical tube, an air torpedo in
looks.

German rocket experiments be-
fore V-2 were using various
fuels, including powder, liquid oxy-
gen and gasoline.

The V-3 is said to use liquid air,
which is probably not an important
change as the purpose of either
liquid air or liquid oxygen is to
get enough oxygen to keep the ex-
plosive jet burning to drive the pro-
jectile.

Substitution of alcohol for gaso-
line could be a confession of acute
shortage. Alcohol certainly
would make a fine rocket fuel, but
gasoline contains more heat energy
volume for volume and weight
for weight.

The engine which drove the buzz-
bombs to London evidently has
been abandoned for the V-3.

The buzz-bomb draws its oxygen from
the air outside. That would not be
possible for V-3 as described. The
buzz-bomb is low, V-3 is said to
start almost straight up, like a long

artillery shell.

The expected altitude of a V-3
trajectory would carry it to a point
where it could not effectively suck
oxygen from the air. Hence it
seems to be designed as a true
rocket, which carries its oxygen in
itself.

The French reports give no idea
of the amount of explosive in V-3.
Take-off weight is 10 tons. Much of
this is fuel, but how much
would depend on the range.

The only information about the
weapon's power is that it has "an
explosive radius of three kilome-
ters" or almost two miles.

But the words explosive radius
do not necessarily mean very wide
destructive power. The absorbing
power of air is tremendous. At a
distance the air waves are able to
do considerable damage to struc-
tures which happen to be situated
in the way, but the lethal power is
long gone.

If the V-3 is a short range weapon
on 50 miles or less, the radio control
is easy to understand. If it is
long range, the efficiency of radio
control is not so easy. A huge
rocket of this type would travel much
faster than any airplane, although
maybe the unknown but highly
mobile speeds of German rocket
planes might be a help in keeping
track of one.

Painted walls behind sink or
range may be waxed so that water
and grease spatters may be wiped
off easily.

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